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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, listed in sections I and II below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 1992.

I. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

4. At the same session, by resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

5. By resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Committee.

7. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

9. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The Plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.
>
> "23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

10. At the same session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 3/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/71 of 11 December 1991 in which it, inter alia:

> "5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1991, including the programme of work envisaged for 1992; 4/

"...

"12. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and, in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"(b) To make concrete suggestions which could assist the Security Council in considering appropriate measures under the Charter with regard to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security;

"(c) To continue to examine the compliance of Member States with resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(d) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist world-wide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"13. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"14. Further calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1992 session;".

11. Prior to the adoption of resolutions 46/71, by which the General Assembly approved the proposals contained in the report of the Special Committee regarding the Committee's proposed programme of work for 1992; and 46/72 of 11 December 1991 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, the Assembly had before it the report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the draft resolutions. 5/ Consideration of this matter by the Fifth Committee was based on the related statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/57) and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/C.5/46/SR.46).

12. In adopting resolution 46/181, it was the understanding of the General Assembly that the estimated cost for the related programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1992 could be met from within the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that modifications would be required in the programme of work under sections 6 and 31, as indicated in the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/80). 6/

13. In a letter dated 17 October 1991 addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations informed him of the decision of the Government of Norway to withdraw from the membership of the Special Committee effective 1 January 1992 (A/AC.109/1096).

14. As of 1 January 1992, the Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunesia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The membership in 1991 of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee is given in the annex to the present document.

II. RESOLUTIONS, CONSENSUSES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1991

15. As mentioned in section I above, the General Assembly by paragraph 12 of its resolution 46/71 requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism. The Assembly also adopted 10 other resolutions, 2 consensuses and 4 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Committee in 1991. The relevant measures taken are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Committee's programme of work for 1992.

A. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	46/67	11 December 1991
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	46/68 A and B	11 December 1991
New Caledonia	46/69	11 December 1991

2. Consensuses

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	46/420	11 December 1991
Pitcairn	46/421	11 December 1991

3. Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	46/402	20 September 1991
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	46/406	13 November 1991
St. Helena	46/422	11 December 1991

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	46/63	11 December 1991

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa	46/64	11 December 1991
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	46/65	11 December 1991
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	46/66	11 December 1991
Cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories	46/70	11 December 1991
Dissemination of information on decolonization	46/72	11 December 1991
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	46/181	19 December 1991

C. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	46/419	11 December 1991

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

2/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to forty-sixth sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23); ibid., Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23); and ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

3/ A/46/23 (Parts I-VI and VII and Corr.1); to be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

4/ A/46/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J; to be issued subsequently as part of Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

5/ A/46/762.

6/ A/46/802.

Annex

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1991

Working Group

Committee officers:

Ethiopia (Chairman) (until March 1991)
Cuba (Vice-Chairman)
Norway (Vice-Chairman)
Czechoslovakia (Vice-Chairman)
Syrian Arab Republic (Rapporteur)

Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance:

Papua New Guinea

Officers of the Subcommittee on Small Territories:

Tunisia (Chairman)
Venezuela (Rapporteur)

Other members:

Congo
Fiji
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Congo
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania

Subcommittee on Small Territories

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Chile
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Ethiopia
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Norway
Papua New Guinea
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia (Chairman)
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela (Rapporteur)
Yugoslavia